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Forgive My Grief

"Forgive My Grief," Vol. 1, by Penn Jones, Jr. Printed by the Midlothian Mirror, Midlothian, Texas, 1966. Foreword by the author, preface by John Howard Griffin. 188pp. $2.95.

Book Review by Hal Verb

At least 13 persons — all of whom knew either Lee Harvey Oswald or Jack Ruby — have met with mysterious deaths since the assassination of President Kennedy.

That is the startling information disclosed in "Forgive My Grief," a new book on the assassination, written by Penn Jones, Jr., editor and publisher of the Midlothian Mirror, a small-town weekly newspaper in Texas.

This book brings the story of all 13 deaths to light publicly for the first time.

Jones points to a meeting that took place at Ruby's apartment on Sunday, November 24, just after Ruby was taken into custody for shooting Oswald. Those at the meeting included Thomas Howard, Ruby's attorney; James Koethe, reporter for the Dallas Times-Herald; and William Hunter, reporter for the Long Beach (Calif.) Independent Press-Telegram.

Newsman Hunter was on night duty in April, 1964, when he was accidentally shot dead by two off-duty policemen at the Long Beach police station. Hunter had reported the shooting of Oswald.

Attorney Howard died of a heart attack in Dallas in mid-1964. Two days before his death, he was described by friends as acting strangely, author Jones states. No autopsy was performed.

Reporter Koethe was killed by a karate chop to the throat as he emerged from the shower in his Dallas apartment. He had covered the Kennedy assassination. Koethe's killer was not indicted.

Other deaths associated with Oswald or Ruby include the following:

Stripper Karen Carlin is reported to have died of gunshot wounds in the head in August, 1964. The coroner's verdict was "suicide." She was the last known person to talk to Ruby before he shot Oswald.

Columnist Dorothy Kilgallen died under "clouded circumstances," Jones claims. She died in November, 1965. Jones states that she was the only person allowed to interview Ruby in complete privacy in his Dallas jail cell.

Mrs. Earlene Roberts ran the rooming house where Oswald lived. Jones states that no newsman talked to her after her testimony to the Warren Commission, and that she was "badgered" by Dallas police after she testified. She was listed as dead on January 9, 1966.

William Whaley was the cab driver who took Oswald to his rooming house after the assassination. Whaley died in a two-car collision. He was the first Dallas cab driver since 1937 to be killed while on duty.

These and other coincidental deaths, and a study of the Warren Commission Report, testimony, and exhibits, convinced Jones that there was a conspiracy to kill the President, and that the conspirators are still at large.